

*The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ*



*A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All
in the Spirit of Christ*

“We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We agree to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As in the past, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.”

**One Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



Open and Affirming means that we welcome everyone to First Church including our GLBTQ brothers and sisters.

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
January 28, 2018
Annual Meeting Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Prelude

Air
In The Cathedral

Elmore
Zimmerman

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and highlight events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to raise significant celebrations to the congregation or introduce yourself or guests. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Books.

Musical Introit

I Will Call Upon the Lord

O'Shields

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us gather together to celebrate life, unite in common purpose and seek to create a more just and loving world.

People: We offer ourselves up to this community knowing that our presence strengthens the ministry and calls us to participate in building Jesus' kingdom in our little corner of Vermont.

Leader: Come, let us unite as we worship and praise our God.

*Opening Hymn

We Gather Together

#421

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Children's Message

During service and Annual Meeting, Kathryn is in the Nursery where there is a speaker to hear worship and it is streamed to Fellowship Hall. After the Children's Message, Preschool-2nd grade are welcome to follow Laurie for Faith Formation program of music and classtime Adults are welcome to accompany the children, get them settled, stay in class or return to worship. All will return to worship during our final hymn. All 3rd – 8th graders will stay in worship for 'Ask The Pastor' and are encourage to write down a question of Pastors Mark & Josh.

God has made us all a rainbow.

Colors dancing 'round and 'round.

In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,

God has made us all a rainbow dancing 'round.

Jesus loves the little children,

All God's children of the world.

Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through

Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.

Sanctuary Choir Anthem

Canon of Praise

Pachelbel

Welcoming our New Members

Eric Lindholm (*in absentia*)

Josh Simon

Cindy Longwell

Amy Trimble

Doug Olufsen

Deb & Craig (*in absentia*) Watt

People: We welcome you with joy in the communion life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of our church and Christ's ways of service and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge as we make God's world a better place.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Medema

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem *It Is Well With My Soul* (*Denise Keating, piano*)

Spafford-Bliss

***Doxology # 778**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

New Testament Scripture Readings: Luke 10:29-37 [page 55]

Sermon

Asking the Pastors

Rev. Mark & Rev. Josh

On the Annual Meeting Sunday, everyone is encouraged to ask Rev's Mark and Josh a question by writing it down on the sheet provided in the bulletin. The Deacons will collect the questions during the hymn immediately prior to the sermon. Everyone is invited to ask any question concerning any aspects of our ministry at First Congregational Church or even personal questions if appropriate in nature.

AFFIRMING OUR PARTNERSHIP OF MINISTRY

Deacon: On January 28, 2008, the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction called the Rev. Mr. Mark Mendes to serve as our Senior Pastor. On August 3, 2009, we called Laurie Chipman to serve as our Christian Education Director. On February 19, 2013, we called Jen Dooley to be our Lead Administrator. On November 27, 2017, we called Josh Simon to be our Associate Pastor. Come, let us affirm these decisions and ask our God to continue to bless our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We are blessed to have Mark, Laurie, Jen, and Josh as our professional staff and we pledge our support to them as we partner in ministry on behalf of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.

Staff: We thank the First Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to us over this last year. We ask forgiveness for the mistakes we have made. We are grateful for the ways our leadership has been accepted. And we look to the future with promise and optimism.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and re-affirm our commitment to your ministry. We express our gratitude for your dedication and work this last year. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith is appreciated as we move into the unknown future.

Staff: We forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together, both in the past and time to come will be pleasing to God.

VOWS OF PARTNERSHIP

Deacon: Do you, the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction promise your continued support of Mark, Laurie, Jen, and Josh?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you offer your encouragement for their future ministry as it unfolds in new ways among us?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you, Mark, Laurie, Jen, and Josh promise your continued support for the ministry of the church's leadership?

Staff: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you offer your encouragement and prayers to all members and friends of this church, promising to treat all with the love of Christ? And do you promise to pray for them, journey with them in the exploration of faith, teach them of your knowledge and care for them to the best of your ability?

Staff: We do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF SHARED MINISTRY

Church President: On behalf of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, I, Brenda Crocket, President of the Church, witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and a commitment to future ministry. I, along with the members and friends of this church hold both our staff and our members accountable to the promises made this day. May we hold each other in prayer and pledge our commitment to our shared ministry in the future.

Everyone: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray.

People: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. During this past year, we were united in your name and saw laughter and tears as well as hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, but move in new directions, as we work together to build a good and healthy church that gives glory to you here in Essex Junction. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

We Would Be Building

#607

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love**

*Postlude:

Fugue on Kyrie

Couperin

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: Gary Smith

Ushers & Greeters: Sylvia Nyhagen

*The flowers on the altar are given by
Beth & George Paul in loving memory of Margaret Baird.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Carol Mauger
Mike Heston

Iris
Eric & Shannon

Bill Bogardus

*We have 'reset' our Prayer Ministry for 2018, please let the office
know if you would like a name added back on, you can write it on the Friendship Pad,
call or email the office or send us a note, welcome@fcej.org*

* * * **TODAY** * * *



TODAY ~ Ask the Pastor Sunday Worship/Annual Meeting

10am worship/11:15am meeting

Thanks; Make Sure To Look & Vote!

A very special thank you to the many church members who attended one of the Capital Campaign informational sessions. There were great questions and comments about the project. All of your comments have been recorded and shared with the Steering Committee, our Trustees, and John Alden, our architect. Please ask questions of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee members who are wearing the *Our Home, Our Future, Our Time* buttons. Look around the church today and see the many arrows indicating capital projects to be completed. During the Annual Meeting after service today, you will have an opportunity to vote on whether or not to proceed with the capital campaign with a goal of \$822,430 and a stretch goal of \$1,088,911.

Please stay for the Annual Meeting and vote!



PURCHASE TODAY! Jamaica Bound Calcutta Tickets!

Saturday, March 10th! Mark your calendars to save the date! Cocktails will begin at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:30 PM. Jamie Polli will begin the Calcutta at 7:30 PM. Tickets cost \$125 each and include dinner for two and the chance to win the grand prize of \$1000 and many other tremendous prizes awarded throughout the evening. Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall today!

*** * * Children, Youth & Family Announcements * * ***

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$27.41



*Your 2018 Offering Choice is **Jamaica School Children***

Scholarship money for school uniforms and books for children.

Vote totals were: Jamaica Children ...114; OMCS ...56; JUMP ...54

Keep remembering to bring your offering

\$1 a week can go a long way!

Bring your Faith Formation Sunday School offering each week and use the envelopes in the pews. It is really important to use them so we know where you want your \$ to go.

Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 6th grade

January 28th ~ one morning service at 10am ~ Faith Formation

Class time for Preschool – 2nd grade, 3rd – 8th in worship for Ask the Pastor Sunday

Junior Youth (5-8th) help lead child care during Annual Meeting.

February 4th ~ Communion Sunday ~ Spiritual Friends ~ Intergenerational Worship

Children & youth are encouraged to sign up to be a reader in worship.

February 11th & 18th ~ Faith Formation Class time

February 25th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday

Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5th - 8th graders meet TWICE a month from 11:30-1:30pm

Faith & Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

Parents sign up for meals and to volunteer is on the JY board

January 28th ~ Help with childcare for Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Healthy Snack Potluck Table!

February 4th ~ Sub Sunday & Fun Youth Time

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

TODAY, January 28th ~ Annual Meeting following second service All youth encouraged to attend ~ Confirmed Youth can VOTE!

Penguin Plunge

Happy New Year everyone! It's hard to believe, but it is IT IS PLUNGE SEASON! The Penguin Plunge is happening next Saturday, February 3rd at the Burlington Waterfront and the Good Faith Plungers will be jumping into the lake to raise fund for Special Olympics Vermont. This is the church's TENTH year having a team and we already have 5 members registered and raising funds. If you are interested in joining the team, all ages are welcome and it's a blast! If you think jumping in the lake in February sounds just plain crazy, then please consider supporting our team by making a donation online at the link below or in person before/after services! If you have any questions, contact Erica at engarvey27@gmail.com
<https://give.specialolympicsvermont.org/team/138254>



* * * **Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate** * * *

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for volunteers for February 28th & March 28th. Please contact Ed Steele at 871-5897 edwardmsteele@msn.com if interested or with any questions. There is also a sign-up sheet in the hallway entering Fellowship Hall. We need four (4) people to volunteer for each date. Our FCCEJ group will decide the menu to feed 12-16 people (which includes the FCCEJ cooks), and then purchase and prepare the food (typically includes the main course as well as vegetables or salad – dessert is optional). The Dismas House provides beverages, condiments, set-up and clean-up. There is no age on who can volunteer, great for retired folks on down and you can donate part of the meal even if you are not able to attend. Many people from our community have volunteered and it is a rewarding mission!



Next Food Pantry days are Monday, February 12th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, February 22nd, 2-6pm



We are in need of baked beans, tuna fish, cereal, jam & jelly and canned fruit to restock our cabinets.

Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs
First Saturday, February 3rd 9am-1pm
February 17th, 9am-1pm



Doing your winter closet cleanout? Don't forget Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop, for your donations! We welcome women's, men's, and children's clothing in

clean and sellable condition. We also accept clean dishes that are not chipped, glasses and decorative items, picture frames and clean towels and blankets. Thanks to all who currently make donations. as your giving is appreciated by many in our community. For holiday giving, proceeds from sales were distributed to local non profits including Essex Meals on Wheels, VT Respite House, Steps to End Domestic Violence, JUMP, Katie Currier Memorial Fund, VNA, HOPE Lodge, COTS and the Jamaican Trip. There's a donation box on shop porch. Contact Sue Wood, Linda Bogardus with any questions.

* * * **SAVE THE DATES** * * *



February 1st ~ Barb Blanchette TURNS 90!!!

Her family would love for us to 'shower' Barb with beautiful Happy Birthday cards! Please send them to: Pillbury Manor, The Gazebo 1530 Williston Road
So. Burlington VT 05403

February 10th ~ Praise-a-Palooza : Soup and Songs of Praise

FCCEJ and Finally @ First are thrilled to again be hosting this fun evening for all ages! Mark your calendars for Saturday night, February 10th and join us at 5:30pm for a Soup Dinner followed at 6:30pm by an evening of praise music by local worship bands. Join us in welcoming bands from area churches and our very own Finally @ First. A free will offering will be taken. Bring a friend!



February 18th ~ Outdoor Ministry Special Offering

Help support our VT Outdoor Ministry and our UCC Camp programs. Half will go to scholarships for VT campers to attend the week at Rock Point and the other half will help children and youth from this church attend that week or another week at a UCC camp. Help children & youth spend a week in God's creation ... connecting, making friends, learning and growing in faith. By giving, the UCCOM can continue to be a vibrant ministry that provides many an introduction to a life-long spiritual journey resulting in a relationship that lasts a lifetime. The VT UCC week at Rock Point camp in Burlington is July 29th – August 3rd for youth going into 5th to 8th grade. For more info, see the Outdoor Ministry board in the downstairs Narthex by the glass doors.

March 10th ~ Jamaica Bound Calcutta

March 11th ~ Pretzel Sunday

April 1st ~ Easter Sunday

May 14th ~ Mother's Day & Jazz Sunday

***May 26th ~ Bob Hullstrung's Memorial Service,
W. Swanton United Methodist, 2:30pm***

THIS WEEK: January 28th - February 3rd

- TODAY:** **10:00am** Worship Service / Sanctuary
 11:15am 2018 Annual Meeting / Sanctuary
 9:30 - 10:30am NYC Youth Mission Trip Meeting / Youth Lounge
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
 1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking/FH & Gym
 5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
 5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
 6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
- TUESDAY:** **8:30 - 10:00 am** Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
 6:30 - 7:30 pm Currier Bells / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge
 7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** **8:30 - 11:30am** Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 - 2:00 pm JOY / Marvin Lounge
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Fellowship Hall
 6:00 - 8:00 pm Pack 630 Meeting / Third Floor
 6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Card Making Class –Andrea Sharp / Marvin Lounge
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 1:30 - 4:00 pm Marie Johnson-Organ / Sanctuary

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fccej.org]
Interim Music Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@gmail.com]
Interim Choir Director: *Denise Keating* [j_keating7@comcast.net]
Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fccej.org]
Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [jsimon@fccej.org]
Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: *Jenny Bourn* [jennybourn4@gmail.com]
Currier Bell Choir Director: *Carolyn Harris* [899-6759]
Finally @ First Director: *Rick Dooley* [rickdooley5@gmail.com]
Heavenly Harmony Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@gmail.com]
Joyful Noise: *Jessica Moos* [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: *Bill Bickford, Jr.* [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@gmail.com]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: *Brenda Crocket* [881-5253]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]
Treasurer & Historian: *Ann Gray* [878-4088]
Asst. Treasurer: *Dan Petherbridge* [879-0261]
Financial Secretary: *Pat Seaver* [879-4445]
Clerk: *Alison Wermer* [879-7650]
Christian Education: *Jenny Bourn* [802-309-7441]
Communications: *Kevin Dorn* [878-3696]
Deacons: *Rick Dooley* [578-0229] *Mike Bottamini* [879-0763]
Hospitality: *Jackie Parks* [324-9206]
Missions: *Sandy Tallman* [879-0665]
Music: *Judy Larrabee* [236-0604]
Nominating: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]
Stewardship: *Kathy Finnie* [878-3696]
Trustees: *Kevin Meilleur* [238-4041]
Ushering: *Michael Sullivan* [879-6044]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop [879-6552] *Sue Wood* suewood@myfairpoint.net or
Linda Bogardus at lbogardus@myfairpoint.net
Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: *Valerie Gabert* [879-0109]
Called To Care Contact: *Beth Volker* [879-4708]
Nepali Christian Community Contact: *Dan Raut* [310-4371]
Craft Fest Committee Contact: *Linda Bogardus* [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net]

WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ESSEX JUNCTION
January 28, 2018
11:15 a.m.

To the members of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction,
GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction will be held in the sanctuary of the Church on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11:15 a.m. to act upon the following business:

ARTICLE I: To vote on the proposed projects and budget of the *Our Home, Our Future, Our Time* Capital Campaign, with a goal of \$822,430 and a stretch goal of \$1,088,911, and to authorize the Capital Campaign Steering Committee in conjunction with our Assistant Treasurer to open a bridge loan if necessary to allow construction to begin and proceed on a timely basis.

ARTICLE II: To hear and act upon the reports of the Church Officers, Committees and Recognized Groups of the Church.

ARTICLE III: To act and vote upon the proposed budget for 2018.

ARTICLE IV: To elect all church officers and committees required by the by-laws of the Church and others as may be necessary.

ARTICLE V: To vote on the proposed minor by-law changes from the Deacons and the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VI: To see if the Church will authorize the Finance Committee to borrow money and sign notes pledging the credit of the Church, if needed, to meet the current expenses of the Church.

ARTICLE VII: To transact any other business which may properly be brought before this Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Church,
Alison Wermer, Church Clerk